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The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010

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WEATHER

Wednesday
68° 47°

Thursday
57° 51°

Friday
67° 39°

INSIDE
SPORTS



Questionable status

The future of two South Carolina football players remains in limbo after Tuesday announcement

See page 11

MIX



Music of new decade

Pop and alternative artists have dominated the past 10 years. See which ones The Mix chose to lead 2010.

See page 7

VIEWPOINTS

Reality TV nothing more than a story line

See the programs taking over prime time? Don't expect much quality from these fake excuses for complex shows.



Pari Fakhzadeh
Third-year business student

See page 6

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
SPORTS



Power Rankings

Assistant Sports Editor James Kratch breaks down each basketball team in the Southeastern Conference.

Online @
www.DailyGamecock.com

State receives failing grade

American Lung Association report ranks South Carolina among worst in tobacco control, cigarette tax

Cassity Brewer
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

South Carolina is one of the worst states in the nation at smoking prevention, according to a report released by the American Lung Association last week. It received failing grades in four smoking-related topics and fell among five other states that received all Fs in the report. The report assessed four factors: tobacco prevention control and spending, smoke-free air, cigarette tax and cessation coverage. While all of the subjects received an "F," the cigarette tax is the lowest tax in the country. At \$1.25 below the national average, the tax in South Carolina for a pack of cigarettes is only seven cents.

Amanda Strickland, Regional Director of the American Lung Association's South Carolina division, hopes the tax will be raised at least 93 cents in the state.

"Florida passed a \$1 increase in 2009, and they have already seen a decrease in number of packs held and an increase in revenue," Strickland said.

A bill currently stalled in the South Carolina Senate aims to raise the cigarette tax by a fifty-cent minimum. The bill was passed in the

House last year and met some debate in the Senate Finance Committee. Although the House planned to use the money to fund health care for low-income workers, the Senate was unsure how to spend the extra revenue that would be gained from the tax increase.

The bill also includes a stipulation for \$5 million a year to go toward tobacco prevention programs. For 2010, South Carolina has budgeted \$3,217,810 for these programs.

There have been some achievements for the state in the fight against smoking. The Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights group listed South Carolina as having the strongest local smoke-free laws in the country. Strickland states this is due to the number of local ordinances passed last year.

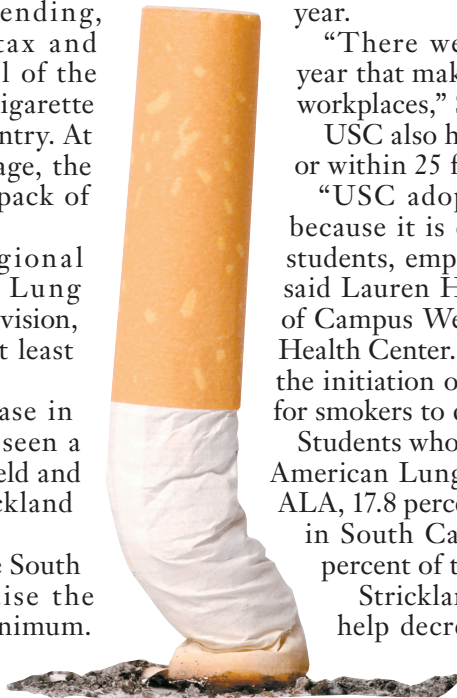
"There were 30 ordinances passed last year that make it illegal to smoke in bars and workplaces," Strickland said.

USC also has laws that prohibit smoking in or within 25 feet of buildings.

"USC adopted this tobacco-free policy because it is concerned about the health of students, employees and visitors on campus," said Lauren Hastings, Program Coordinator of Campus Wellness at the Thomson Student Health Center. "These policies also help reduce the initiation of tobacco use and make it easier for smokers to quit."

Students who smoke are also a concern of the American Lung Association. According to the ALA, 17.8 percent of the high school population in South Carolina smokes compared to 20 percent of the general adult population.

Strickland said the cigarette tax should help decrease these numbers within the state.



REPORT CARD

STATE OF TOBACCO
CONTROL 2010
SOUTH CAROLINA

TOBACCO PREVENTION &
CONTROL SPENDING
SMOKEFREE AIR
CIGARETTE TAX
CESSATION COVERAGE

F

"It's been proven that the increase in cigarette tax coupled with an increase in funding would reduce smoking for students," Strickland said. "It's a winning combination."

Alex Brings, a fourth-year economics and marketing student who recently quit smoking, said increasing the tax would be marginally effective in decreasing the number of students who smoke.

"It's definitely an incentive," Brings said. "Smokers are always going to complain about a hike in taxes... it's expensive as hell to keep smoking."

SMOKE • 4

BUILDING A BETTER UNIVERSITY

QEP proposals chosen, suggest improvements

Interdisciplinary opportunities central to recommendations

Paul Bowers
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Every 10 years, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requires its accredited universities to come up with some bright ideas for improvement and make them happen. With the decade coming to a close, the University is rolling out its high-profile, big-budget Quality Enhancement Plan in response to that call.

"It really has to be a significant investment," said Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Helen Doerpinghaus. "We can't just think of a nice idea and generate paper about it."

The QEP, which Doerpinghaus says could cost the University \$500,000 over the course of five years, will draw from four different faculty-drafted proposals. Common themes include bridging the gaps between academic disciplines, creating

out-of-classroom learning opportunities and improving the often-clunky advisement process.

The four proposals, which can be downloaded at www.sc.edu/provost/qep, were officially selected last Tuesday. They were taken from a pool of 23 proposals by a committee that included Student Body Treasurer Ebbie Yazdani and Student Body President Meredith Ross.

"It's basically just taking the things that we do well now and bringing them up to date," Ross said.

Particularly exciting for Ross is the expansion of an idea set forth by the Honors College's Baccalaureus program: a student need not limit his or her curiosities to a single academic college. Interdisciplinary opportunities are central to two of the four proposals.

The next step, which will take much of 2010 to complete, will be to blend the proposals into one plan — the QEP — and submit it for SACS approval.

"The people who dreamed



Sophia Paris / The Associated Press

An injured youth is attended by medics in a field hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

USC contributes to aid

Campus organizations donate to Haiti earthquake relief efforts

Paige Kirby
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 12, the worst earthquake in recent history struck the small country of Haiti. The 7.0-magnitude earthquake flattened entire communities, and early predictions have the death toll at over 50,000. At this time of need, USC students are lending a hand to help in the relief efforts.

One of these groups is the Methodist Student Network, who in partnership with the campus chapter of the NAACP is collecting donations for Partners in Health, an international organization that brings modern medical help to the poorest communities worldwide.

In just two days, students have been able to raise \$500 to donate to Partners in Health,

and they expect this number to double within the next two days.

"Students and teachers have come together on this," said Dakotah Jones, a third-year biology student who is part of MSN. "We have received individual donations up to \$50, and that really means a lot."

The earthquake is comparable in power to several nuclear bombs and has displaced about three million people in the country. About 10 million people most likely felt shaking from the earthquake, according to a U.S. Geological Survey.

"People are suffering," Jones said. "At this time we need to feel the hearts of the people in Haiti. We are given a lot of opportunities. It is time for us to step up and help."

Student Body President Meredith Ross said helping the people of Haiti was of "utmost importance."

"So much of our education takes place outside the classroom, and it's easy for us

AID • 4

SG Elections

Four students make second office bid

Candidates file for presidential, vice presidential candidacies in upcoming school year

Josh Dawsey
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Same faces, different races.

The four people who filed for student body president and student body vice president Tuesday afternoon all ran for executive office last year.

Ebbie Yazdani, a fourth-year history student, was the first to file paperwork to run for student body president. The Irmo native currently holds the position of student body treasurer. Yazdani

listed his campaign manager as Chloe Thurston, a second-year member of Student Senate.

Drew Kirchhofer, a third-year international business and finance student, also filed later in the afternoon to run for student body president. Kirchhofer came in second last year for the position. For the second year in a row, Emily Berger will direct Kirchhofer's campaign. Berger currently serves as president of Chi Omega Sorority and is a former member of Student Senate.

Alex Stroman was the last of the three to file for president. Stroman, a third-year political science student, currently serves as student body vice president. Hakeem Jefferson, a third-year history student, will run Stroman's campaign again this year.

Taylor Cain was the only candidate to file for student body vice president Tuesday. Cain, a third-year history student, will run on a joint ticket with Stroman. She lost to Stroman last year in the race for student body vice president by 12 votes. Her campaign manager is Neha Parthasarathy, a member of 2009's Freshman Council.

Candidates can file for office until 4 p.m. today. They are not allowed to speak to The Daily Gamecock about their candidacies until Jan. 26, when the official election season begins.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu

CALENDAR

What: Student Organization Fair
When: 10 a.m.
Where: Greene Street

What: Student Senate Meeting
When: 5:30 p.m.
Where: Russell House, Room 322/326

What: National Student Exchange Info Session
When: 5:30 p.m.
Where: RH, Room 205

What: Young Life Leader Training
When: 6 p.m.
Where: RH, Room 203

What: SAFARI meeting
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: RH, Room 305

What: Muslim Students Association
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: RH Theater

What: Habitat for Humanity Meeting
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: RH, Room 202

SPORTS SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL

Ole Miss
Oxford, Miss.
Tonight
9 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
Tomorrow
7 p.m.

TRACK

Virginia Tech Invitational
Blacksburg, Va.
Friday
All day

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LOCAL & WORLD NEWS

LOCAL

Sanford prepares for speech

Gov. Mark Sanford delivers his last state-of-the-state address this week, the beginning of the end for a Republican once considered presidential material who has lost nearly everything over an affair with an Argentine woman.

The speech Wednesday will be less a victory lap than a testament to his political survival. The text will not be released until just before Sanford shows up in the ornate House chamber, a practice he has followed for years. That Sanford will be there to give the speech at all reflects a combination of politics, lucky timing and the fortitude to keep going when another shamed politician might simply have stepped down.

Even as political power brokers called for Sanford to quit, they knew keeping him in office, weakened by the scandal, would affect the 2010 governor's race less than replacing him with a lieutenant governor already campaigning for the job.

Sanford was also helped by timing. His confessions came while lawmakers were on break from the Legislature and could not immediately react. Democrats and Republicans in the House called for him to resign, as did the state's Republican Party hierarchy.

NATIONAL

Designation may help Haitians

MIAMI — More than 100 Haitians crammed inside a Catholic church Tuesday to ask questions about a federal government designation that will allow possibly hundreds of thousands of illegal Haitian immigrants to work in the U.S. and send money home during the next 18 months.

Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas said Haitians will be able to start filing their applications for Temporary Protected Status on Thursday, the day official notice of the program is expected to be published in the Federal Register. Mayorkas warned that applications sent before Thursday would likely be delayed.

Haitians have already started showing up at centers to get help filling out the forms.

At Notre Dame d'Haiti Catholic Church in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood, Randy McGrorty, head of Catholic Charities Legal Services, fielded questions, mostly in Creole, about whether applicants could bring family members from Haiti and whether they could get any help paying the \$470 application fee.

Although the government has cautioned the protection is only temporary — 18 months to be exact — some of those applying hoped it would lead to a longer reprieve.

INTERNATIONAL

Orphans struggle after quake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The five-month-old patient at the Israeli field hospital has a number rather than a name.

No one even knows who dropped the barely conscious child at the makeshift medical center after he was pulled from the debris of a collapsed building four days after last week's catastrophic quake. Now that he is recovering, doctors have a difficult decision ahead.

They have no information about the boy's family, or whether any of his relatives are alive.

"What will we do with him when we are finished?" said Dr. Assa Amit of the hospital's pediatric emergency department.

Tens of thousands of children have been orphaned by the earthquake, aid groups say — so many that officials won't venture a number. With so many buildings destroyed and growing chaos in the capital, it is conceivable that many children are alone.

Even before Tuesday's magnitude-7.0 earthquake, Haiti was awash in orphans, with 380,000 children living in orphanages or group homes, the United Nations Children's Fund reported on its Web site.

— The Associated Press

PIC OF THE DAY



John Sheridan / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Karen Krinsky, New York native, sells posters during the bi-annual poster sale at the Russel House Tuesday afternoon.

RHA Update

The Residence Hall Association has decided to donate around \$2,000 to the Carolina Service Council. This money will be used to create T-shirts, which will be sold at \$10 a piece, with all proceeds going to the American Red Cross Association.

"This is a heartfelt donation. There are as many as 100,000 deaths in Haiti, and we need to make a generous contribution to help the cause," said RHA Treasurer Derrell Brown. The tentative plan is to sell the T-shirts in residence halls around campus and sporting events. The goal is to have them ready by Jan. 26 for the men's basketball game versus Kentucky, which will be broadcast nationally on ESPN. The national exposure will not only support Haiti, but also show how USC is involved with global efforts. There will be approximately 500 shirts for sale.

RHA has tentative plans in the works to create T-shirts for Green Quad that are 100 percent organic. These T-shirts will be made in America and will be available for residents of Green Quad. There will be approximately 300 shirts printed, so they will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis. This year RHA will also hold a daytime event called "Sounds of Sustainability."

Finally, the annual RHA charity, Hands for Hunger, is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of March 25. Hands for Hunger is a charity poker tournament to benefit Harvest Hope. Some possible locations for this year's event are the Green Quad Learning Center, Bates West Social Room or Patterson Hall's Patio restaurant. Last year, over 145 students attended the event.

Next week: There will be the elections for the new RHA executive board. There will be a new president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and national communications coordinator. RHA is currently looking for students living in certain residence halls to serve as senators, among other positions. If interested, please contact your current residence hall senator.

— Compiled by Staff Writer Paige Kirby

STUDENT GOVERNEMENT ELECTIONS

Student Government is looking for conscientious, hard-working students to run for Student Senate, student body president, vice president and treasurer. All full-time graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply in their respective colleges for Senate.

Want to become a USC Senator? Number of Senate seats available for each college:
15 Arts & Sciences, 3 HRSM, 2 Social Work, 8 Business, 3 Education, 3 Engineering, 4 Journalism, 2 Law, 2 Medicine, 2 Nursing, 2 Pharmacy, 2 Public Health, 2 Music

Dates to remember:

Jan. 19-20: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Filing for Candidacy, Russell House 227

Jan. 26: Mandatory Candidate Meeting

Feb. 10: Candidate Debates, Greene Street

Feb. 15-16: Elections, vote on VIP

For more information stop by the SG Office or contact the Election Commission at saec@mailbox.sc.edu.

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Alayna Dunkerly / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Students will benefit from the digital services proposed by the Tenth Dimension paper.

QEP • Continued from 1

big and actually wrote the proposal, most of those were not equipped to know what we're administratively equipped to do right now," Doerpinghaus said.

Even in the midst of a budget crunch, Doerpinghaus says the roughly half-million dollars will be there, as the University planned years in advance for this expense.

The first proposal, "The Tenth Dimension: An Integrative Learning Environment," aims to connect the campus using a new online presence.

Say you're a visual communications student in the journalism school and you're passionate about it. Say a high-profile graphic designer is giving a guest lecture in the art department, and you'd love to go if you knew he was coming. But you don't know because you're not in the art department. You're in the wrong building and on the wrong listserv.

The Tenth Dimension proposal, co-authored by Honors College Dean Davis Baird, could remedy this situation.

"In some sense, we lose value on this campus just because we're so atomized and dispersed," Baird said. "So the idea was, how can we make those connections?"

Baird and his co-authors are proposing a new online presence for the University. Not necessarily replacing VIP and Blackboard, but perhaps incorporating them, the Tenth Dimension would include a database of academic courses linked to a database of extracurricular activities, from guest lectures to study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities. The authors are also pushing for an e-portfolio of every student's accomplishments and a game-based

visualization of campus, á la Second Life.

At the core of the proposal lies the idea that the serendipity model of academic success — where "it's all who you know" and where opportunity sometimes depends on a chance encounter or an overheard conversation — is outdated and unfair. If the Tenth Dimension works, everyone who's interested will know about that sought-after internship or networking opportunity.

Baird said he also sees potential in the e-portfolios for improving advisement, which gets mixed reviews from different departments.

"What about a student who's spent two years working in Scott Goode's lab on some chemistry something-or-other doing undergraduate research but never actually took the required lab class?" Baird said. "You could sort of expand the idea of what it takes to satisfy general education requirements."

David Lee Miller, director of USC's Center for Digital Humanities and a co-author of the proposal, says the final product could take seven to 10 years to complete, but that early versions should be online sooner. Much of the development work will be done by USC students and faculty in media arts and computer science.

"It's a way of giving this large state university some of the sense of connectedness that you get from a small liberal arts college," Miller said.

Helen Doerpinghaus calls the Tenth Dimension paper the lead proposal, meaning that the final plan will most closely reflect its ideas. Authors from the other three proposals all saw ways in which their ideas could be incorporated into the Tenth Dimension.

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& Vanderbilt 2PM

WOMEN'S TENNIS
1/26 vs. Furman 5PM

MEN'S BASKETBALL
1/26 vs. Kentucky 9PM

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Greene St.

AID ● Continued from 1

to get comfortable in the bubble that is the University," Ross said at Friday's meeting. "So when something like this happens, it's very important for us to remember how much of a difference we can make."

Haiti is the western hemisphere's poorest country, and many students feel it is their duty to give back.

"We helped for hurricane Katrina, we helped during 9/11, now it is time to help people outside our country," said Anthony Le, a second-year pre-pharmacy student, who donated to the cause.

So far, the influx of student responses shows an eagerness to help.

"It is in times of struggle we see what we are made of," Jones said. "The strong response shows our integrity and dedication to help those in need. South Carolina students are proving today, right now, that we will be strong leaders for our country."

Students and faculty are given the opportunity to donate at the MSN booth outside of the Russell House, online at www.pih.org or through the American Red Cross by texting "Haiti" to the number 90999. The \$10 will be tacked onto your cell phone bill.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu


How to Help +

The athletics department will have a drop-off box at upcoming events for supplies and goods to be sent to the devastated country.

MSN and USC's NAACP are raising money on Greene Street to send to Partners in Health Ministry.

Text "Haiti" to 90999 for a \$10 donation to the American Red Cross. The charge will be added to your cell phone bill.

Any other organizations that are planning outreach efforts to the country can send their information to gamecocknews@gmail.com.



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SMOKE ● Continued from 1

But he said those who want to smoke will smoke.

"The problem with a tax on cigarettes is that for the people that don't stop smoking, it's going to be the most regressive tax you implement," Brings said.

Brings, who started smoking his freshman year, made the decision to stop smoking this year and is happy with the change.

"It's only enjoyable when you're still in the honeymoon phase of it. Once you get past that phase, you're just smoking to bring yourself up," Brings said. "You're not smoking because you like doing it. I've really just hated smoking for the past year and a half."

Brings is not alone. According to the Thomson Student Health Center, about 70 percent of people who smoke want to quit smoking.

The Health Center offers free tobacco cessation programs developed by the American Cancer Society to help students quit. The classes include meeting with a registered dietitian and learning ways to reduce stress and deal with withdrawal symptoms.

"Participants want to experience the benefits of quitting smoking: better breathing, more energy, healthier life, saving money," Hastings said. "According to the 2008 USC National College Health Assessment, 18.8 percent of students reported using cigarettes in the last 30 days."

South Carolina also received all Fs in the American Lung Association's Annual State of Tobacco Control Report in 2008.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu



Interest Meetings

G&B	WUSC	TDG	SGTV
Jan. 11th & 12th 7:30pm RHUU 304	Jan. 27th & 28th 8pm RHUU 305	Jan. 14th & 19th 8pm RHUU 302	Jan. 26th & Feb. 4th 8pm RHUU 204

IT'S WORTH A LOOK

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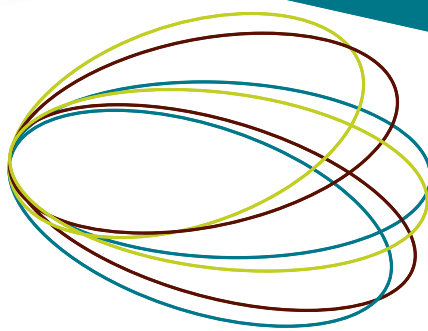
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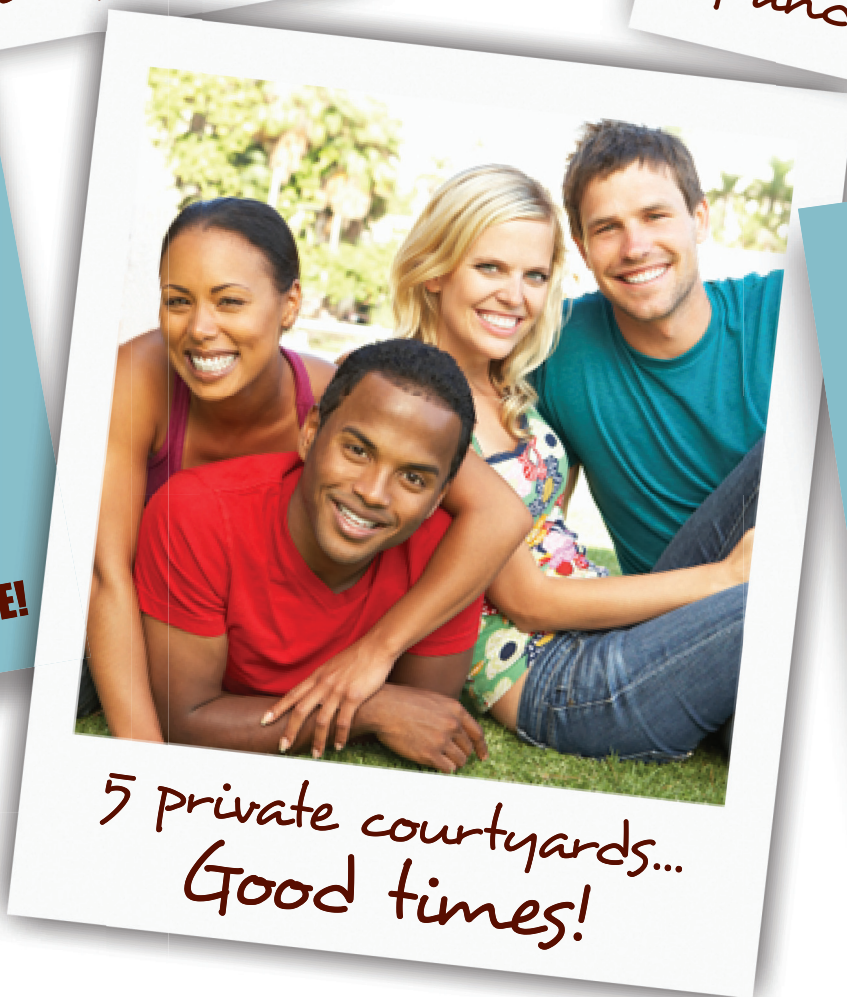
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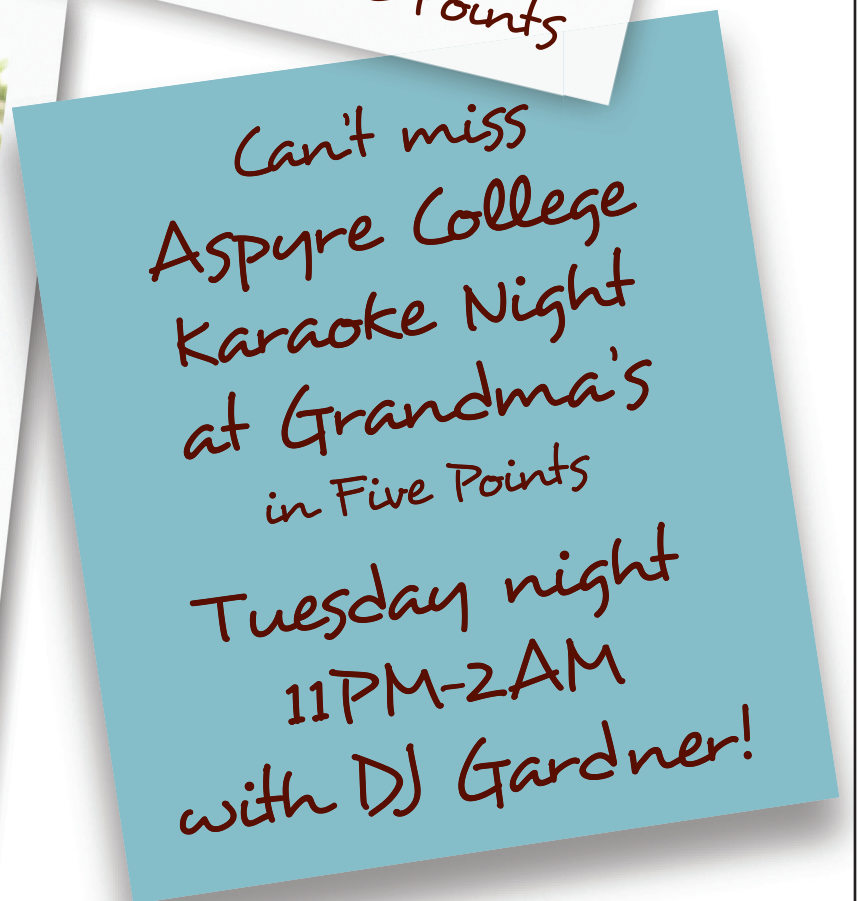
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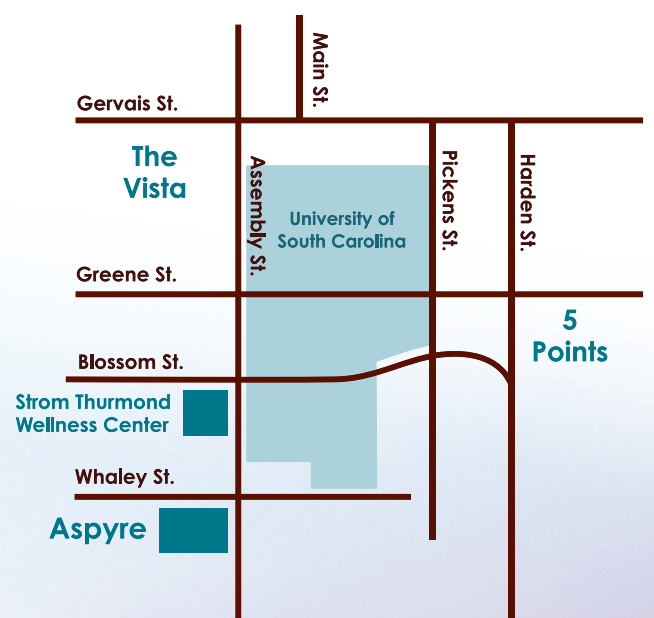
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Health care may die with Brown's win

With polls coming in late last night, the Scott Brown-Martha Coakley race was hot and steamy, with the candidates fighting closely for the Massachusetts seat in the Senate.

President Obama was surprised by the close fight and did all he could for Coakley, but from the start Brown was expected to win. And he did.

Coakley's polls were continuously dropping, so it was a shock to see such a tight race. Supposedly, Democratic organizations and committees did not get involved until last week. Even Obama had to travel down to Massachusetts to help with the campaign.

“ With Republican Brown winning, the health care bill will either be gone or put on hold. ”

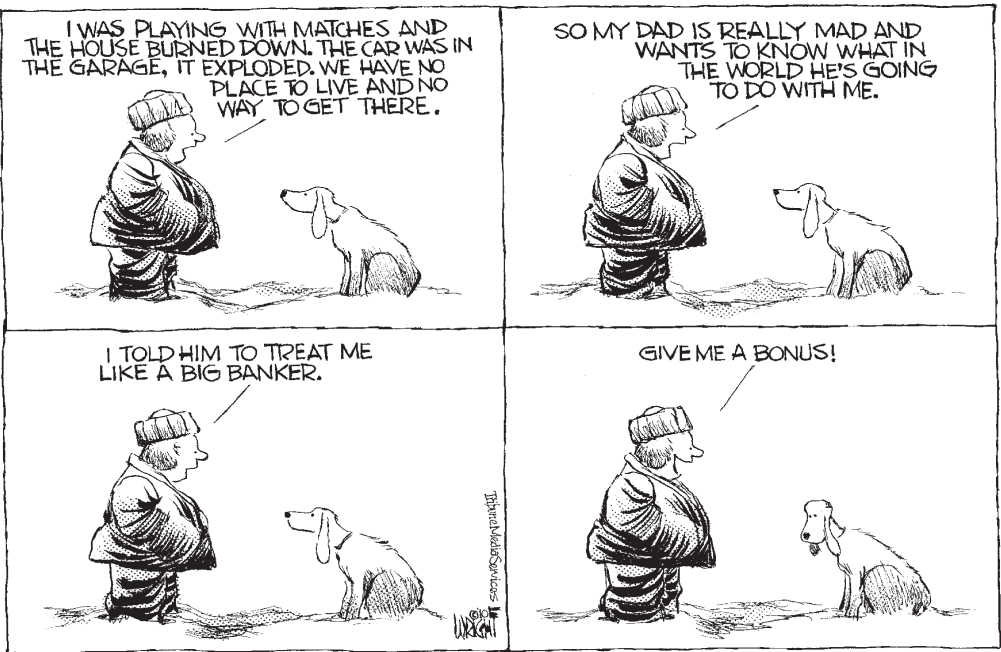
So why did Massachusetts Democrats back out and fall off the face of the Earth?

Well, with Coakley's push for health care reform, and Massachusetts already having their own system of health care making a success, the Democrats were hard-pressed to support Coakley.

With the back-out of some Democrats, those national Democrats who were still on Coakley's side were sure to have tweaked the ballots a bit in order to get so close to Brown's votes. There were some irregularities that went on during the voting such as ballots being placed in the wrong box.

So, with Coakley's struggle during the campaign, voting irregularities and finally Brown's win, all hell is going to break lose. With Brown wining, the Democrats will be gone and the health care bill will be bombed. Well, I wouldn't say bombed, but it will definitely be put on hold.

For the future of America, the Democratic supermajority will be lost and Obama's slogan for change will finally come true. Obamacare is at jeopardy here, but who says that's a bad thing?



OPINION GRAB BAG

Columnists weigh in on how effective Google's stand against China will be

How is leaving a country an effective moral protest? China will stay China, with or without Google. The only way to mix protest and business is for said business to remain in-country and agitate repressive practices with its presence. To cut and run is a great business solution, but not an admirable one in terms of helping the Chinese people.

— Michael Lambert

I know Google is going to lose profits. How can it not when it lets go of 300 million cell phone users? But the point is that an American company is standing against the censorship and unfair practices of the Chinese government. It's about time that a company traded money for morals. If other big corporations, like Microsoft, follow suit, it will have an effect on even China's juggernaut of an economy.

— Ryan Quinn

If Google is the only huge corporation to pull out of China it won't be very effective because one company leaving that behemoth of an economy is not going to hurt it that much. But, if other corporations start standing up China will eventually feel the effects.

— Bryan Wendland

We are getting ourselves into a whirlwind of trouble by pulling Google from China. The U.S. will practically be owned by China in a couple of years due to the high pile of debt, and this move is only making that day of ownership come closer. China will become frustrated by this act and retaliate. Might as well learn Chinese.

— Marilynn Joyner

Google may not have political say in whether or not China continues its long and unsettling history of internal censorship, but it is commendable that as a business they are standing up for their company. China may not immediately change their policies on censorship upon Google's withdrawal, but as other companies become frustrated and start to put pressure on China, we may start to see some change.

— Chelsey Seidel

I absolutely support Google's decision to stand up for freedom of speech and leave China, but if China hinders me from eating at Chinese buffets and withdraws from the U.S. in retaliation, then I am going to be pissed.

— Dan Solley

Prime time television loses quality

Reality TV fails to produce substantial content for viewers

While taking time to relax over break I flipped on the television. After unsuccessfully searching for something to watch I turned to the TV guide channel. As I watched the show titles scroll across the screen I didn't know what to do but laugh at the complete crap that is trying to disguise itself as quality entertainment.



Pari Fakhrazadeh
Third-year business student

Does anyone else miss the days where there was an actual story line following real actors, actresses and a plot? Nowadays it seems like

every other channel is someone's bizarre version of reality. I mean, sure it's interesting to see just how much of themselves people are willing to expose on national television, but it is getting a little out of hand. Since when do drug and alcohol abuse, the search for your soulmate or excessive fist pumping and spiking your hair warrant fame? Shows like this are practically making a mockery of the entertainment industry, leaving little room for people with actual talent to express themselves. Reality television makes up more than half of prime time viewing spots, a sad truth that needs to change.

These outrageous shows classified as reality TV are in actuality so far from it. Most of the time reality TV shows are cast, edited and manipulated. In addition, they highly publicize rare and unusual situations, to the point that society thinks outlandish behavior is normal. Watching all these shows changes people's perceptions and has had a huge impact on society as a whole. For example, although it seems MTV's supposed goal was to educate people of the negative effects of teen pregnancy, you have to wonder if giving these girls a hit TV show was the way to do it. Popularizing an issue like this could easily have adverse affects, especially with teens as the targeted audience. Obviously networks are concerned with their ratings which is why they should really think twice before tackling such controversial social issues. Since the end of reality TV does not seem to be anywhere in sight, it is important to remember to be real with yourself while watching it.

Focus needed on common drug's medical uses

New Jersey becomes fourteenth state to legalize medical marijuana, other states should follow suit

Excluding my negative thoughts toward the health care system and Obama's hypocritical statements during his campaign that he would pull America out of war, there is only one thing the Obama administration has done that I approve of.

Obama finally got off his butt and took action last October when he approved a more laissez-faire policy toward medical marijuana. This forces the federal government to stop the prosecution of medical marijuana for those 14 states who have approved it. Yet, even after the approval to end prosecution, the federal government still discourages research on the drug for medical use. Recently, New Jersey's previous governor Jon Corzine put the medical marijuana bill into law before leaving office, making New Jersey the 14th state to legalize it.

Professor of plant sciences at the University of

Massachusetts, Lyle E. Craker has been begging federal authorities for nine years to let him grow the plant in order to provide for clinical trials. Even after a court ruling approved Craker's application in 2007, the DEA still hinders Craker from this act due to fear of abuse rather than benefits in medical trials.



Marilynn Joyner
Second-year English and dance student

Marijuana is used in hospitals to relieve symptoms such as nausea and pain and to improve appetite. For those undergoing chemotherapy or those with HIV or AIDS, marijuana also helps numb these patients

to ease the pain. It is used properly and effectively in hospitals and ultimately causes no harm, so why not keep researching it to find out what else it can be used for in hospitals?

More than 14 states need to legalize marijuana use in the medical field, and the federal government needs to leave this drug alone. It is the only drug that is controlled by the federal government in research supply and requires a certain review by scientists. Why marijuana? Why not a high-risk drug such as ecstasy?

All marijuana does is waste the government's money, with them constantly chasing something that has little ill effect on the society. If anything it has a positive effect on those who need relief from disease. Legalizing marijuana entirely is a bigger issue that should be carefully determined, but legalizing use in research for the medical field is something that needs to be done in every state now. We want to better our country and make the people in our country happy, so why not start by helping those in need? If marijuana does the trick for those with illness, then so be it.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author's name,

year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all. All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today's edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. E-mail sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina.

The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

Artists to watch for in 2010

Music from Local Natives, Broken Bells, Ke\$ha continues trends, brings new style



Mary Cathryn Armstrong
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

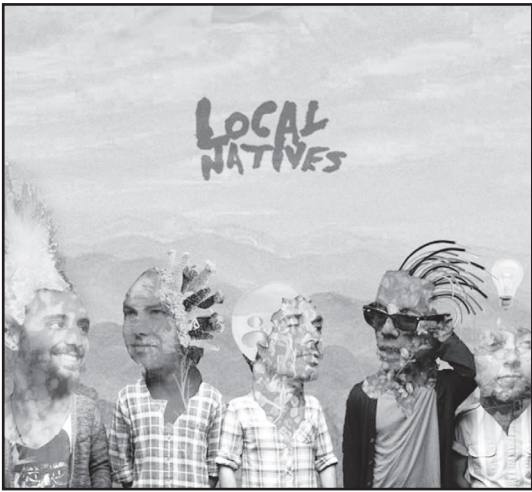
Looking back at music's first decade in the 21st century, memorable and enduring moments are easy to find. Boy bands ruled the charts. A mega pop star shaved her head and learned to use her umbrella as a weapon. Record stores floundered in the dawn of the digital music age. We all learned to Soulja Boy, and thanks to Janet Jackson, the Super Bowl halftime show will never be the same. Legends passed before their time, and there was a Party in the U.S.A.

Artists have always fought for musical freedom, and the past ten years offered unparalleled opportunities for creative expression. It may be hard to top this past decade, but these artists are certainly willing to give it a try.

If You Like: Fleet Foxes

Try: Local Natives

Much of the Local Natives' music has found a home across the pond in the U.K., but the New Year will ring in their popularity here at home. Most of the band's tracks are built on unexpected yet highly emotional harmonies. Local Natives keep their music original by flavoring each tune with unfamiliar pairings such as a light piano coupled with a deep yawn. Each track, though uniquely different from the last, flows together with a commonality that the music world has lost. There is certainly a story to be told here, and Local Natives' musical sound will surely continue to grow.



Courtesy of Myspace.com

Local Natives bring sounds from the U.K.



Courtesy of Myspace.com

Broken Bells features singer from The Shins

If You Like: The Shins, Spoon

Try: Broken Bells

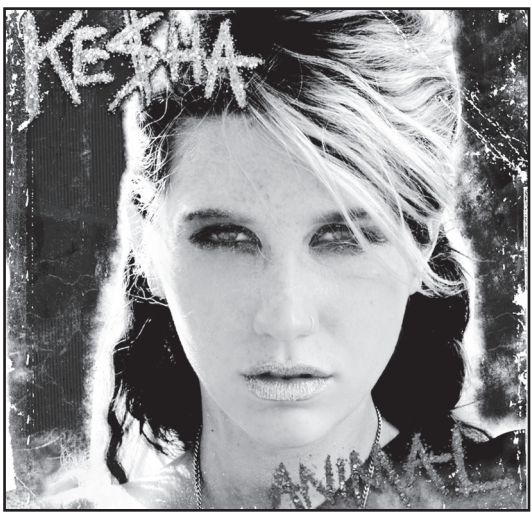
An odd combination is just as good as any. So goes the story with Broken Bells, a pairing of The Shins' singer, songwriter and guitarist James Mercer and powerhouse producer Danger Mouse of Gnarl's Barkley fame. Although the duo has only officially released one single, "The High Road," their album has already leaked and received high praise from both critics and fans. Mercer's distinctive voice lightly floats over Danger Mouse's experimental and alternative musical stylings. In combining instruments, beats and harmonies that seemingly would never work together (think a Nintendo-sounding keyboard on top of a low bass), the pair have shown their edginess and creativity in a fresh take on the music industry. Not just a side project for Danger Mouse or Mercer, the band already has future plans, plans that will hopefully include more of the same intriguing hooks and melodies they have already brought to the table.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu

If You Like: Lady GaGa, Britney Spears

Try: Ke\$ha

Let's be honest, we all woke up feeling like P. Diddy when Ke\$ha's "TiK ToK" hit the airwaves. The title track from "Animal," her debut album, "TiK ToK" quickly shot to the top of the iTunes charts and blasted from club speakers worldwide. Like her pop predecessors, Ke\$ha combines dance grooves with electronic beats and layers the mixture with catchy lyrics. They reflect the style of her pop princess alter ego. Her music thrives on girl-power spunk, glittery pop vocals and a funky rap style, creating likeable yet safe music that has won over many fans.



Courtesy of Myspace.com

Ke\$ha's debut album mixes pop and rap.

Fox drama proves thrilling, fun

'Human Target' combines action, comedy with unlikely group of characters based on DC comic

Colin Campbell
STAFF WRITER

"Human Target"

★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆

Network: Fox

Premier: Wednesday, 9 p.m.

Starring: Mark Valley, Chi McBride, Jackie Earle Haley

Run Time: 60 minutes

New drama "Human Target," starring "Fringe" actor Mark Valley, premieres tonight at 9 p.m. on Fox, following its sneak preview Sunday night before the "24" season premiere. The series, loosely based on the DC comic of the same title, follows Christopher Chance (Valley), a specialized private security agent/bodyguard-for-hire who steps in when his clients are unable to resolve death threats through ordinary means.

He accomplishes this through a variety of measures, usually blending into the background, identifying the threat and then putting himself in the line of fire to eliminate the threat and save his client.

Chance and his longtime friend and colleague,

Winston (Chi McBride), hail from opposite sides of the law: Winston is a former cop, and Chance has a mysterious criminal background. Together, they own a security firm.

Winston manages the business and Chance works undercover to handle each situation. The third member of their team, Guerrero (Jackie Earle Haley), is an information specialist with great disregard for others' privacy.

While Winston dislikes him and his loose code of ethics, the three mix well when it comes to getting the information they need in order to protect their clients. The beginnings of this unlikely trio, along with the questions surrounding Chance's past and his strange desire to put himself in the line of fire for people he barely knows, will surely be explored as the season progresses.

Unlike the comic series, the television adaptation strays from the mainly disguise-oriented means of completing the job. It places Chance in the scene alongside the client rather than having him disguised as the client.

"He's not a master of disguise, in a 'Mission Impossible' sense," said Jonathan E. Steinberg, the show's creator and executive producer, in a recent Fox interview. "He's a guy who's very good at blending into the background but protecting you from that space."

This renders the title of the series fairly misleading, as Chance does not operate from the actual target position, but rather allows whoever is being targeted to bait the threat. Only when the threat attacks does he jump in as a protector.

Steinberg stressed the fact that the television show is more like a weekly one-hour action movie.

"That was another draw to it, there aren't that



Courtesy of Fox.com

"Human Target" was described by its creator as being a "weekly one-hour action movie."

many action heroes on TV," he stated.

The show compares to "24," but "Human Target" has a degree of comedy with charming characters, a mixture that can't be found anywhere else on today's television lineup.

If the pilot and the first episode are any indicator, this new concept should be a fantastic success that does indeed feel like watching a small action movie once a week. It packs just the right combination of action and humor, with both emotional near-death experiences and light, witty dialogue.

All in all, "Human Target" looks like it will make for an interesting break from shows like "Jersey Shore," which pass as quality entertainment nowadays. Even Christopher Chance probably isn't a match for "The Situation."

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcketc@sc.edu

Authors consider variety of causes for world's end

Mayan 2012 prediction provokes interpretations from spiritualists, scientists

Katie Crocker
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

This week's Under the Cover focuses on the end of the world. For years, different possibilities have been speculated about the Earth's eventual destruction. The human race would conduct its own version of doomsday through war, destruction of the planet's resources, or maybe even something deep in our own galaxy would blast us away — something like aliens, cosmic waves or the Sun.

The end of the world has fascinated people for years because of man's constant and unanswerable question of what happens when we die, and where do we go? This morbid question is only brought into sharper focus by the thought of the known world coming to an end.

There is a keener interest in our impending doom thanks to the Mayan calendar and its prophecy. The Mayans were an ancient Mesoamerican people who seemingly abandoned their highly advanced society, and whose temples can still be seen in the jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize.

They left behind, among other things, a calendar that predicted the world would end at 11:11 a.m. on Dec. 21, 2012.

It's not the happiest outlook for all those on Earth right now, and while skeptics argue against such claims due to the lack of scientific proof, the prospect is still haunting. The literary world has pondered the question of the world's possible end for the last several years as time draws ever nearer to the sacred date.

This first book, "Serpent of Light: Beyond 2012" by Drunvalo Melchizedek, is an example of some of the Eastern spiritual practices that have existed for centuries, but are rarely heard in the West. The book is a discussion of the year 2012 from a spiritual view that seeks to explain how everything on Earth is connected.

The author narrates the 35 years he spent exploring both the world and different spiritual ceremonies. He believes 2012 is not the end of the world, but rather a new beginning. This beginning will provide an understanding of our own place in the universe.

For those who prefer hard proof, there is nothing available in the way of actual evidence, but that has not stopped the scientific community from examining the phenomenon of the 2012 prediction from several angles.

The book "The Mystery of 2012: Predictions, Prophecies & Possibilities," a collection of essays from authors such as Gregg Braden, Daniel Pinchbeck and Peter Russell, attempts to explain 2012 through a diverse exploration of the scientific, economic and environmental reasons that the Earth may be coming to an end or at least heading toward a great shift. The book is a heavy yet interesting read for those who prefer to engage with the more scientific views on the possibility of the world's end.

The question is ultimately not will the world end in 2012, but what to do when the end does come? Will humankind shift with the change of the tide or be pulled under because we swam against it?

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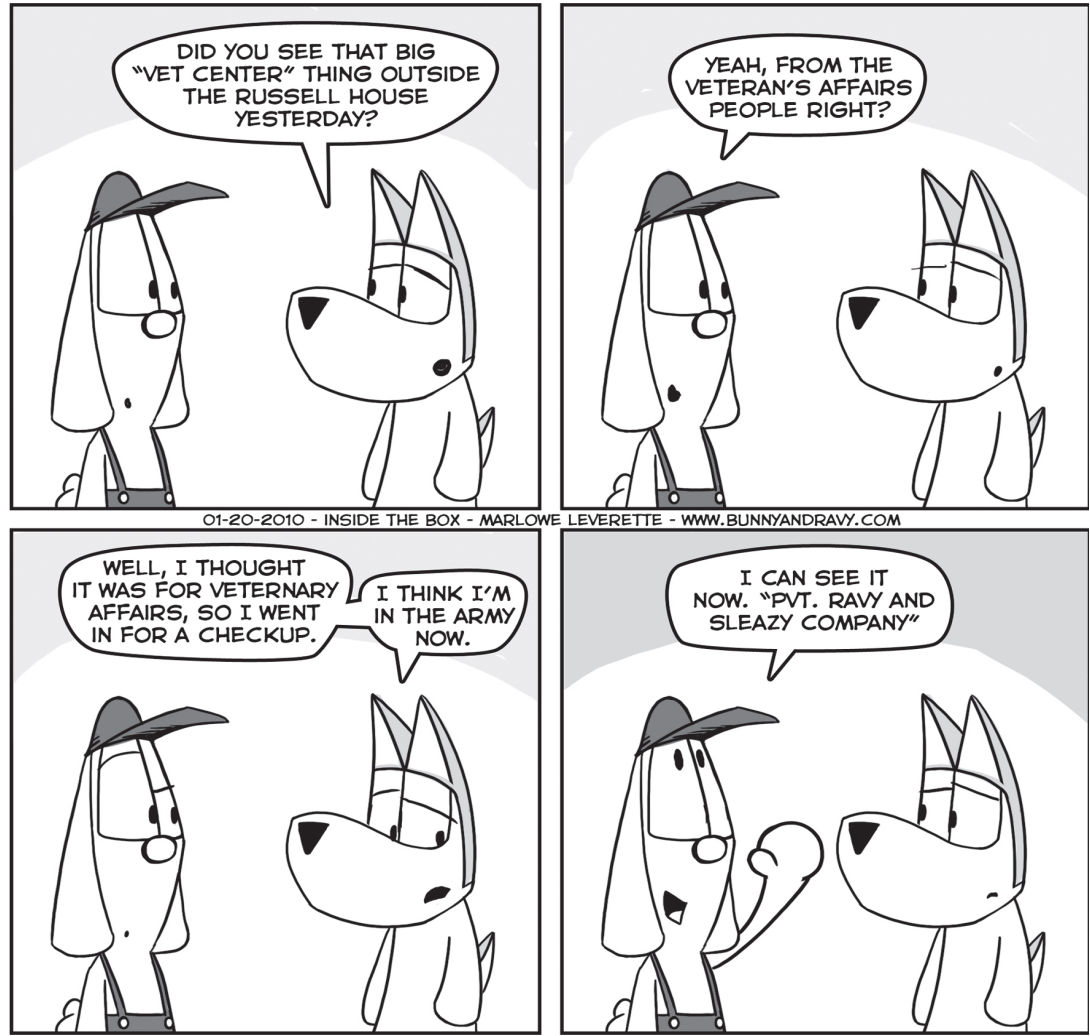


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HOROSCOPES

ARIES More is better in the persuasion department, as long as you speak gently. Talk to several people before making a decision.

TAURUS As long as you keep your own responsibilities in mind, you can help others and enjoy the process. Add your personal stamp.

GEMINI Makesignificant changes as early as possible. You'll feel better for it, and others will adjust more easily when they're awake and alert.

CANCER Take off in a direction of your choice. Do this early and stick to your decision. If you act like a leader, opportunities will come.

LEO Seize the day! You now can make changes that seemed impossible before. As you take off in a new direction, be sure to keep inventing. You may obsess over details.

VIRGO Re-establish your independence while also honoring your partner's desires. An ambitious idea moves forward because you've thought it through to the end.

LIBRA Listen to what others say. Their ideas are on target now. Share the task of revising plans and make sure that family members agree.

SCORPIO Go your own way. Don't let anyone persuade you otherwise. If you can work independently you'll get 10 times more done, and results will be far more creative.

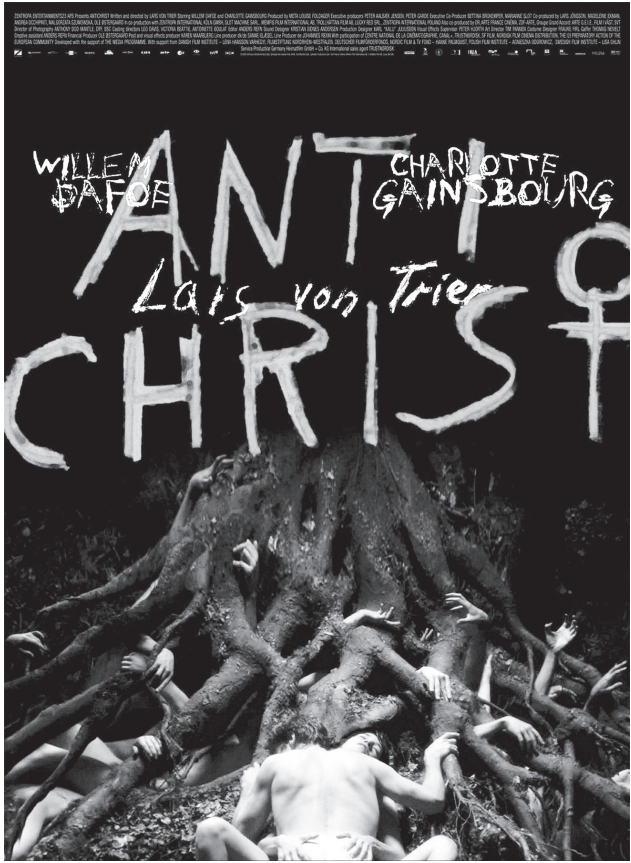
SAGITTARIUS You don't have as much energy today. Stick to well-traveled pathways and postpone action on original ideas.

CAPRICORN Independence counts for a lot today. Move your ideas forward and plan a new initiative as well.

AQUARIUS Whistle while you work, but not too loudly. Others may do better with silence. Don't stifle your happiness, though. It's good for them.

PISCES Even though you want to go off by yourself, logic suggests dealing with responsibilities first. Devise a plan to be at home as early as possible.

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South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais St.

TOMORROW

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6 p.m., \$6.50
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

THE ODD COUPLE
8 p.m., \$13 w/ student ID
Town Theatre, 1012 Sumter St.

SHAG NIGHT AT JILLIAN'S
6:30 p.m., FREE
Jillian's, 800 Gervais St.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

01/20/10

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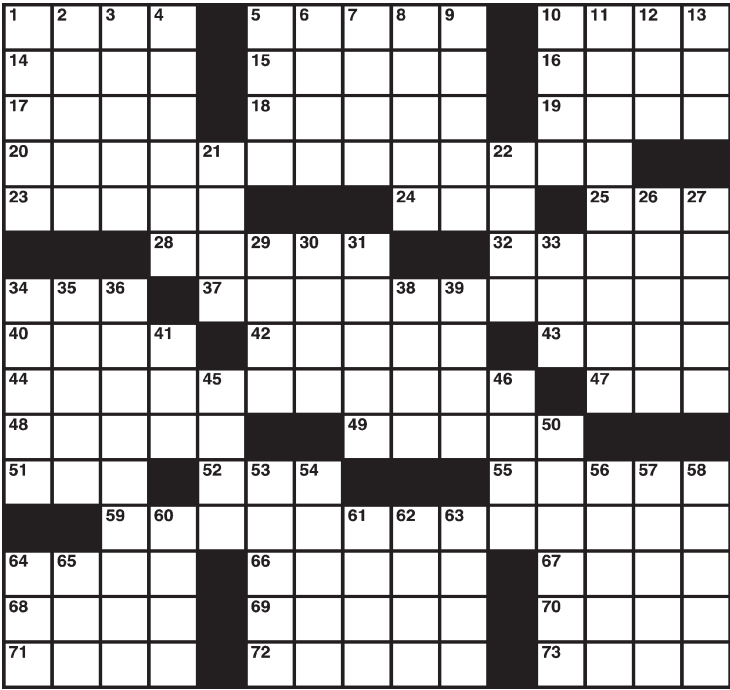
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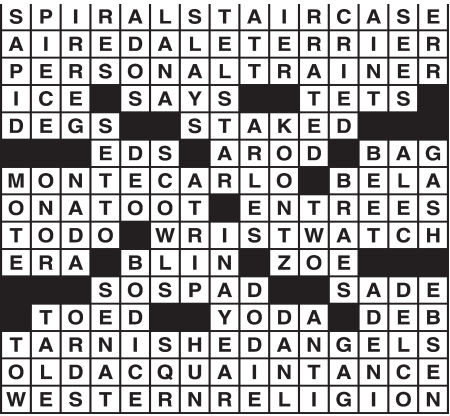
- ACROSS**
- 1 Feds concerned with bogus bills
 - 5 Drug bust finds
 - 10 Highest point
 - 14 Like collectible coins
 - 15 Sky color
 - 16 Wheat, corn or rice cereal
 - 17 Several
 - 18 __ plume: pen name
 - 19 Whacks with an ax
 - 20 Piece of Peter Piper's peck
 - 23 Backyard hangout
 - 24 Whiskey grain
 - 25 Fled the scene
 - 28 Andrea __: ilfated ship
 - 32 What sips and nips do
 - 34 +, on a batt.
 - 37 School project medium in large rolls
 - 40 Italian wine city
 - 42 Minister's residence
 - 43 Heed
 - 44 Killjoy
 - 47 Dreyer's partner in ice cream
 - 48 Colorful quartz
 - 49 Comedian
 - Wanda
 - 51 Stitch
 - 52 Illuminated
 - 55 Basil-and-pinenuts sauce
 - 59 Cinema counter fixture
 - 64 __ job: trickery
 - 66 Transfusion fluid
 - 67 The sound of music
 - 68 Handbasket rider's destination?
 - 69 Brainy group
 - 70 This, in Tijuana
 - 71 Slippery fish
 - 72 Collar stiffeners
 - 73 Dick Tracy's love

- DOWN**
- 1 "The Sound of Music" family



- name
- 2 Sicilian secret society
 - 3 Standing tall
 - 4 Recent block arrival
 - 5 "Citizen __"
 - 6 Former reptilian logo brand
 - 7 Sugar cube
 - 8 "__ in the court!"
 - 9 Oozy
 - 10 Aspirin target
 - 11 Fruity dessert
 - 12 Bit of cat chitchat
 - 13 George Strait's "All My __ Live in Texas"
 - 21 Feature of a tied shoelace
 - 22 Cop's collar
 - 26 Change, as a law
 - 27 Totally unhip
 - 29 Frolic
 - 30 World Golf Hall of Famer Aoki
 - 31 Periodic table figs.
 - 33 Cheese go-with
 - 34 Dads
 - 35 Missouri River tributary
 - 36 Informal opinion sampling

Solution for 01/19/10



- 38 Lay eyes on
- 39 Really stink
- 41 Addams family cousin
- 45 Canine cry
- 46 Result of an auto loan default, briefly
- 50 Trio plus four
- 53 Missiles in silos, for short
- 54 "Vacancy"
- 56 Reckon, in the boonies

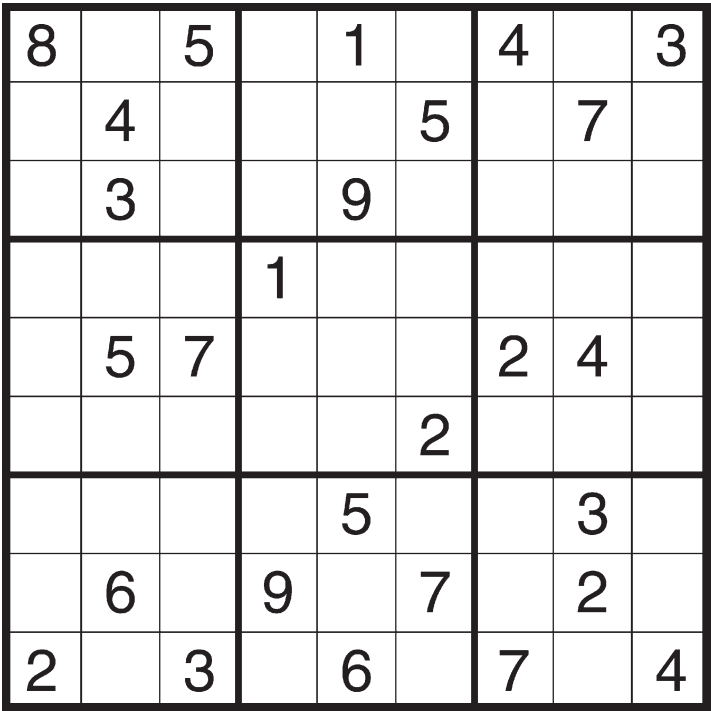
- 57 Revival structures
- 58 Creme-filled cookies
- 60 Avian symbols of wisdom
- 61 Author Jaffe
- 62 Overly inquisitive
- 63 Palmtop computers: Abbr.
- 64 "Steady as __ goes"
- 65 Born, in marriage announcements

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Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

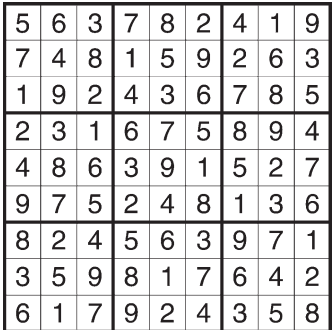
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Saunders, McCollum in limbo

Tight end indefinitely suspended, quarterback ponders transfer

Chris Cox
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Tuesday marked a day of change for South Carolina football.

Multiple news outlets reported that tight end Weslye Saunders has been indefinitely suspended for a violation of team rules while backup quarterback Reid McCollum has decided to quit the football team.

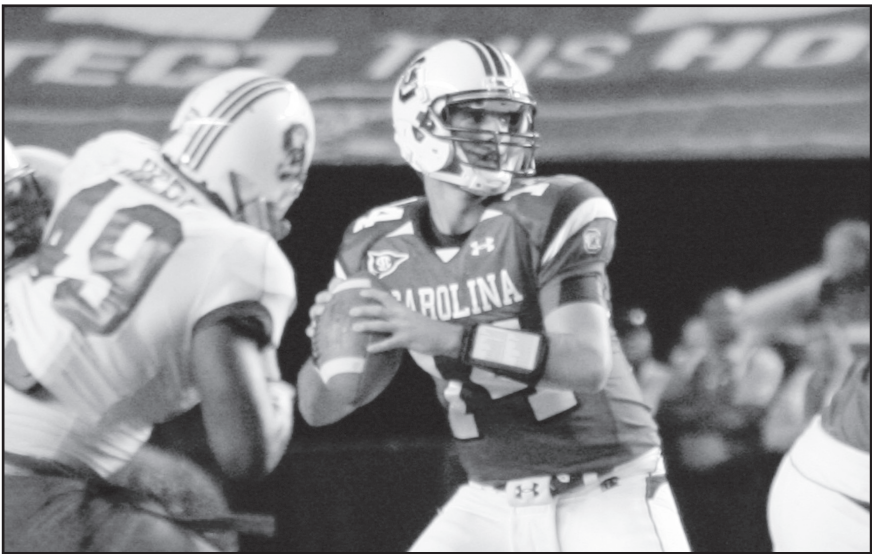
Saunders, who finished the 2009 campaign with 32 receptions for 353 yards and three touchdowns, was often outspoken during his junior season. He criticized the offense for not getting him the ball enough after USC's 33-16 loss at Arkansas and asked coaches if he could take a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct after scoring a touchdown against the N.C. State Wolfpack in the season opener.

The Durham, N.C., native, who has been plagued by drops this season, is thought to be one of Carolina's most important offensive weapons for the upcoming season. For his career, the big man has 60 receptions for 718 yards and six touchdowns.

Saunders posted twice on his Twitter page yesterday, saying: "I've realized it's best to keep quiet ... this is gonna be a long year."

Later he said, "It is better to be silent and thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt. Be strong Mr. Saunders."

McCollum played sparingly as a redshirt freshman during the



The statuses of junior tight end Weslye Saunders (above) and freshman quarterback Reid McCollum (below) remain in question.

2009 season, completing only four-of-six passes for 39 yards. He also threw his first career touchdown reception to fellow freshman Alshon Jeffery in the closing minutes of USC's 38-14 victory over South Carolina State on Oct. 3.

It remains unclear whether McCollum, a Summerville native, will transfer or give up football entirely. Multiple sources are reporting different things.

McCollum's father, Dennis McCollum, told former Gamecock Sports Editor

David Cloninger, now of Gamecockcentral.com, the following:

"I really don't want to comment at this time, but there's a process he's going through," McCollum said. "He's going to talk with some coaches and that sort of thing."

In a statement released to The State, head football coach Steve Spurrier said that McCollum "has indicated to coach [G.A.] Mangus that he is researching the possibility of transferring to a lower-division school with the opportunity to play right away."

Should McCollum depart, starting quarterback Stephen Garcia will be the only signal-caller on the depth chart with a career snap. The rest of the depth chart includes Zac Brindise, Aramis Hillary and Connor Shaw. Dylan Thompson is set to join the program this coming offseason.

Additionally, McCollum will become the third USC quarterback to transfer in the past two seasons, as Tommy Beecher left to join Liberty and Chris Smelley departed for Alabama to play baseball.

The two updates continue a recent trend of departure and change within the program, as junior defensive end Clifton Geathers announced that he would forego his final season of eligibility to enter the NFL Draft while offensive line coach Eric Wolford left the program and was eventually replaced by former Appalachian State line coach Shawn Elliott.

Comments on this story?
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MLB's payroll advice bad call

Teams should make own decision on future of franchise

Recently Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association, decided to encourage the Florida Marlins to increase their payroll as a means of improving their team. It has been rumored that MLB may apply this same pressure to teams like the Pittsburgh Pirates and Kansas City Royals.

While the spirit of this decision is in line with the idea of revenue sharing, meaning teams should all be able to work from a somewhat level financial playing field, the action that the move requires is not necessarily good for baseball. Frankly, increasing payroll is not always the most surefire way of improving the talent on a major league team.

The move was made to ensure that revenue sharing money that teams receive is used in a manner that will improve those teams. This is good in spirit but in some cases, lowering payroll can also improve the quality of a team.



Ed Neuhaus
Third-year broadcast journalism major

Some teams like the Marlins and Pirates have been criticized in the past for committing "salary dumps," wherein the team trades away all of their highest paid players as a means of lowering their expenses. MLB's decision will indeed discourage salary dumping by the Marlins but there are cases where lowering payroll is actually the best thing for a team to do to improve the talent on the field.

There have been numerous trades in the last decade made by teams where a team traded a major leaguer for a number of prospects. While this may not improve the talent on the team that season, the organization as a whole can be improved for the future. One trade where a team has traded away a high-paid player and gotten numerous good prospects that panned out at the major league level came in 2008 when Pittsburgh traded away highly paid players Xavier Nady and Damaso Marte. In return, the Pirates received a number of prospects including pitcher Ross Ohlendorf. Since the trade, Nady and Marte have faltered with the Yankees and Ohlendorf has become one of the Pirates' best pitchers.

That trade is just one example of where shedding payroll can actually work in a team's favor. The problem with MLB's move is that it rests on the perception that increasing payroll is the only way that a team can improve itself. There have been a number of examples, like the 2008 AL Champion Tampa Bay Rays, that show that payroll is not always the best indicator of the level of talent present on a team.

By encouraging teams like the Marlins to increase their payroll, those teams might be dissuaded from making trades like the one the Pirates did involving Nady. Teams may be encouraged to hold onto more expensive players who may be past their prime instead of acquiring new talent that can make their team better.

GAMECOCKS TRAVEL TO OXFORD

Carolina hopes to rebound against nationally-ranked Mississippi Rebels

Sam Davis
STAFF WRITER

There aren't many players in the country playing better than Devan Downey.

In three conference games, the USC senior guard hasn't scored less than 29 points. But while Downey is scoring almost at will, the team as a whole isn't having such an easy time.

Case in point — a ten-point home loss to Vanderbilt on Saturday night in which Downey scored 35. Now, approaching the No. 22 ranked Ole Miss Rebels, it's not the rest of the team's scoring that's an issue. It's everything else, beginning with defense.

"Other guys are going to make shots. Other guys are going to step up," senior guard Brandis Raley-Ross said. "It's defense. We've got to stop guys. We've got to limit easy baskets. When we do that, we'll be in good shape."

USC coach Darrin Horn agrees with his senior guard but emphasizes the fact that it can't be just a few guys putting in maximum effort. It needs to be a complete and communal endeavor.

Even if Downey is good for 30 points a game, it won't matter until the rest of the team plays to their potential, not necessarily in scoring points but in other aspects.

"We've been saying for weeks now we're not in a situation where we can have two



Senior point guard Devan Downey drives toward the lane against LSU last week.

or three or four guys that aren't up to what they can do. We don't have to have them play over their head," Horn said. "We've got one guy that's playing unbelievable right now but the key is everybody has to do what they can do."

Tonight's matchup in Oxford, Miss., will be particularly tough for more than one reason. Playing on the road in a hostile atmosphere against a ranked conference opponent is never an easy task.

"You've got to come out fighting. You can't come out lackadaisical on the road. The team will jump on you, the crowd will get involved in it and all of a sudden they're riding the momentum all game," Raley-Ross said. "So we're going to try to kill their momentum from the start and try to knock them down."

Plus, what makes the Rebels such a dangerous team is they have a platoon of scorers that can come up in the clutch and put up a twenty-point game. Three starters average over 11 points a game, all guards.

"It's a good group of guards. They're all talented. They all can score the ball," Raley-Ross said. "It's going to be a good game. They're going to be tough to play against and we're looking forward to the challenge."

USC would sure love to see another 30-point outburst from Downey tonight. But in order to win, it's got to be a collective effort in every department of the game.

"Whether [Downey scores] 35, 30, or 20, points haven't been an issue. We put up 79 and we can talk about [Downey's] percentage of points and all that but those aren't the things that are getting us beat," Horn said. "It's all the other stuff."

Comments on this story?
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Get involved in your campus community by serving on a University Committee! We are still accepting applications for the following Special Advisory Committees: Blatt PE Center, Disability Affairs, Michael J. Mungo Distinguished Professor of the Year Award, Registration, Retention, Scholarships and Financial Aid, and Student Publications and Communications; as well as the following Faculty Committees: Athletics, Honorary Degrees, Instructional Development, and Scholastic Standards and Petitions. Applications are available in the Campus Life Center. Please contact Secretary of Institutional Affairs Amanda Byrum at byruma@mailbox.sc.edu for more information.

ELECTIONS

Important Dates:
January 19 & 20th- Filing for Candidacy
26th-Mandatory Candidate Meeting

February
10th-Candidate Debates
15&16th Elections

MORE INFORMATION STOP BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE OR CONTACT THE ELECTION COMMISSION AT SAEC@MAILBOX.SC.EDU

COCKY'S CARAVAN

Interested in Shagging on Thursday at Jillian's? Cocky's Caravan will provide rides for USC students on Thursday from 9PM to 1AM. Buses will leave every 30 minutes from the Russell House. Cocky's Caravan will also be running on its regular schedule this Friday and Saturday from 9am to 1pm this week.

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**GARNET ON
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A person wearing a South Carolina Gamecock costume, including a large orange and black feathered headpiece, is holding a copy of The Daily Gamecock newspaper. The newspaper is the main focus, showing its masthead and several articles. The word "with" is written in a stylized font above the newspaper. The background is a solid yellow color.

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